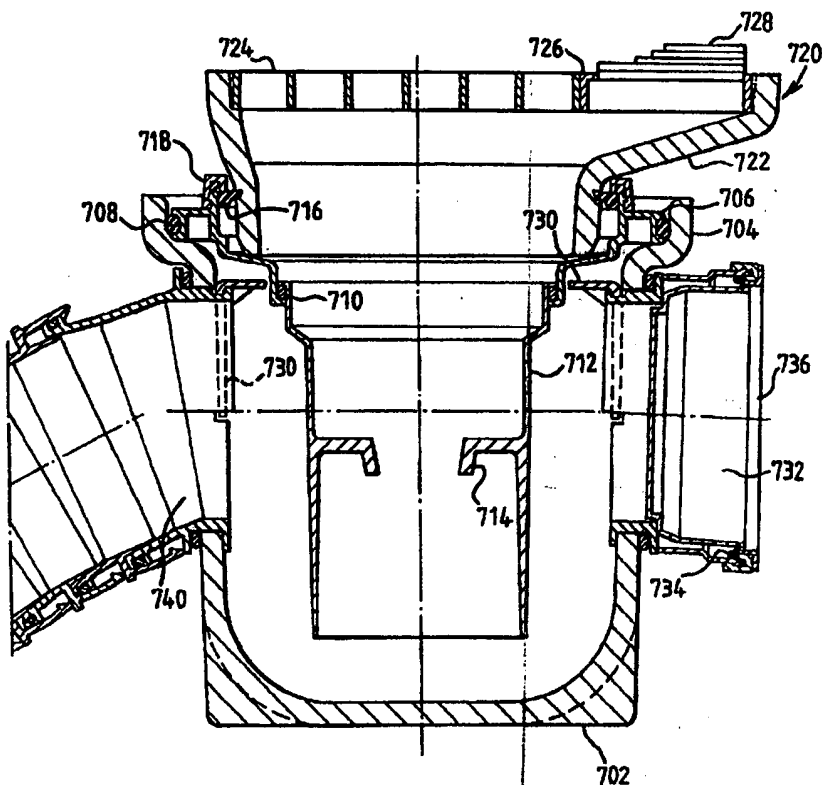




INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶: E03F 5/04, 3/04, F16L 43/00, 21/04	A2	(11) International Publication Number: WO 95/13434 (43) International Publication Date: 18 May 1995 (18.05.95)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB94/02476 (22) International Filing Date: 11 November 1994 (11.11.94) (30) Priority Data: 9323289.0 11 November 1993 (11.11.93) GB (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): HEPWORTH BUILDING PRODUCTS LIMITED [GB/GB]; Hazlehead, Stocksbridge, Sheffield S30 5HG (GB). (72) Inventor; and (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): BROOK, Alan [GB/GB]; 4 Kendal Row, Belthorn, Blackburn BB1 2PN (GB). (74) Agent: LAWSON, David, Glynne; Marks & Clerk, 57-60 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3LS (GB).		(81) Designated States: AM, AT, AU, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, HU, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LK, LR, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MN, MW, NL, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SI, SK, TJ, TT, UA, US, UZ, VN, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG), ARIPO patent (KE, MW, SD, SZ). Published <i>Without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report.</i>
(54) Title: DRAINAGE SYSTEM (57) Abstract <p>An access gully comprises a pot (702) with an outlet and a dip-tube trap (712) and an upper housing (720) connected to the pot and comprising an inlet grid (724) and an inlet pipe access (726) in an upper region. The grid is above the dip-tube trap and can be removed to allow removal of the dip trap, and the inlet pipe access is disposed to one side of the grid, the positions of the grid and inlet pipe access being dictated by the configuration of the upper housing, which has an offset portion accommodating the inlet pipe access. An adjustable bend comprises a series of inter-engaging rings (302) each having a first end portion (308) of a relatively lesser diameter and a second end portion (310) of a relatively greater diameter, arranged such that the first end portion of one ring is slidably received within the second end portion of the next ring, in such a manner as to allow the successive rings to deviate from a coaxial alignment by asymmetric sliding of one ring in another. A clay pipe has a plastics socket fitted to an end thereof and provided with a rib formation which permanently deforms when the socket is placed over the end of a pipe, to securely retain the socket on the pipe.</p>		



FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

AT	Austria	GB	United Kingdom	MR	Mauritania
AU	Australia	GE	Georgia	MW	Malawi
BB	Barbados	GN	Guinea	NE	Niger
BE	Belgium	GR	Greece	NL	Netherlands
BF	Burkina Faso	HU	Hungary	NO	Norway
BG	Bulgaria	IE	Ireland	NZ	New Zealand
BJ	Benin	IT	Italy	PL	Poland
BR	Brazil	JP	Japan	PT	Portugal
BY	Belarus	KE	Kenya	RO	Romania
CA	Canada	KG	Kyrgyzstan	RU	Russian Federation
CF	Central African Republic	KP	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	SD	Sudan
CG	Congo	KR	Republic of Korea	SE	Sweden
CH	Switzerland	KZ	Kazakhstan	SI	Slovenia
CI	Côte d'Ivoire	LI	Liechtenstein	SK	Slovakia
CM	Cameroon	LK	Sri Lanka	SN	Senegal
CN	China	LU	Luxembourg	TD	Chad
CS	Czechoslovakia	LV	Latvia	TG	Togo
CZ	Czech Republic	MC	Monaco	TJ	Tajikistan
DE	Germany	MD	Republic of Moldova	TT	Trinidad and Tobago
DK	Denmark	MG	Madagascar	UA	Ukraine
ES	Spain	ML	Mali	US	United States of America
FI	Finland	MN	Mongolia	UZ	Uzbekistan
FR	France			VN	Viet Nam
GA	Gabon				

DRAINAGE SYSTEM

The present invention relates to a drainage system and particularly, but not exclusively, to a drainage system comprising components suitable for use with clay drainage pipes and components.

It is a well-known problem that efficiency and reliability of drainage system components can be seriously compromised by the manner in which the system is installed. If a component is difficult to install, it will require a certain degree of skill to install the component correctly. As a consequence, a constructor will need to employ skilled labour or risk having components installed in a less than perfect manner. Furthermore, it is not uncommon for labourers, skilled or otherwise, to install a component incorrectly simply through laziness or ignorance.

The various aspects of the present invention set out to provide components which can be easily installed with little or no risk of error, whilst simplifying the installation procedures in order to provide less incentive and/or opportunity for compromising installation. Furthermore, the invention sets out to provide components which are not only easy to install, but which are generally labour-saving and which are readily adaptable to different circumstances in which they might be employed, thereby reducing the need of a constructor to buy and keep a wide range of alternative components.

It can often be difficult to access a trap associated with an access gully for cleaning or other maintenance. This problem is typically a result of gully size or configuration and can be exacerbated by a poorly or incorrectly installed gully. A first aspect of the present invention sets out to provide an access gully which comprises a trap which is easy to maintain and which is easily accessible. This aspect of the invention also sets

out to reduce the possibility that access will be restricted by incorrect installation of the gully.

According to a first aspect of the invention there is provided an access gully comprising a lower housing with an outlet and a dip-tube trap and an upper housing connected to the lower housing and comprising an inlet grid and an inlet pipe access in an upper region thereof, wherein the grid is situated above the dip-tube trap and can be removed to allow removal of the dip-tube trap, and the inlet pipe access is disposed to one side of the grid, the positions of the grid and inlet pipe access being dictated by the configuration of the upper housing which has an off-set portion accommodating the inlet pipe.

In a preferred embodiment, the upper housing is rotatable in the horizontal plane with respect to the lower housing. The axis of rotation of the upper housing with respect to the lower housing is preferably generally coaxial with the vertical central axis of the dip-tube trap when installed.

By providing the grating directly above the dip-tube trap, the dip-tube trap is easily removable. Because the upper housing is configured so that the inlet situated at its upper surface is always offset from the dip-tube trap, the grating will always be situated above the dip-tube trap, therefore guaranteeing that the dip-tube trap can be removed.

By providing an upper housing which is rotatable with respect to the lower housing, we enable the upper housing to be made oblong, and to be oriented to lie flush with paving flags or the side of a building, regardless of the angle of orientation of the pipes connected with the lower housing. By making the axis of rotation of the upper housing with respect to the lower housing coaxial with the dip-tube trap, the grating

can be situated on the axis of rotation and will therefore always be above the dip-tube trap regardless of the relative orientations of the two housings.

In order to enable a change of direction in a pipe or to enable a pipe to be connected to some other component at an angle, it is necessary to use a bend. Obviously, a system will require pipes to change direction many times and through various angles. This has traditionally required the constructor to carry and keep a number of bends of different bend angles. This is undesirable as it can represent a waste of space and money. This problem has been addressed by the development of an adjustable bend. The conventional adjustable bend comprises two tubular sections which are connected together by respective sheared end faces in a mutually rotatable manner. The axis of rotation is inclined at an angle to the longitudinal axes of the tubes when they are aligned concentrically. Such a bend is shown in Fig. 7.

In order to effect a bend between the two lengths of tube, they are circumferentially rotated relative to one another. The inclined connection between the two tubes resulting from the sheared nature of the connecting faces of the two tubes has the effect that, as the tubes are rotated, they will provide a bend which has a bend angle depending upon the relative circumferential rotations of the two tubes. However, in

order to use this bend, it is necessary to rotate both tubes for most orientations. This is because, if one tube is held in a fixed position, as the other tube is rotated to achieve the desired bend angle, it will also be directed in a particular radial direction for each particular bend angle. It is obviously undesirable to have to rotate both tubes; particularly since this means that the adjustable bend cannot be factory-fitted to any components and must be installed on site. Installation of such a component on site can leave significant room for error, particularly if debris is introduced into a seal which is to be effected at one or the other of the two ends of the bend.

The present invention sets out to provide an adjustable bend which does not require such rotation.

In addition to the foregoing disadvantage, the known adjustable bend suffers from a further problem. Because the opposed end faces of each of the tube sections of the bend are sheared to provide the necessary angle of relative rotation, opposing end faces of the tubes are actually ellipses. This means that when the relative circumferential rotation between the two tube lengths is 90° from the coaxial position, severe steps are presented on the internal walls of the tubes. These interrupt flow and provide a region at which blockages are likely to occur. The step still exists at other angles of relative circumferential rotation, but it is not so severe. This aspect of the invention also sets out to provide an adjustable bend which does not suffer from severe interruptions to the internal wall of the bend.

According to a second aspect of the invention there is provided an adjustable bend comprising a series of inter-engaging rings, each ring have a first end portion of a relatively lesser diameter and a second end portion of a relatively greater diameter, the rings being arranged such that, from ring to ring, the first end portion of one ring is slideably received within the second end portion of a successive ring, in such a manner as to allow the successive rings to deviate from a coaxial alignment by asymmetric

sliding of the first end portion of one ring within the second end portion of the other ring.

Annular seals may be provided between the outer surface of a first end portion of one ring and the inner surface of the second end portion of a successive ring, to thereby seal the junction between the two rings.

The bend may have a spigot portion fitted at one or both ends. The bend may have a socket section fitted at one or both ends.

An adjustable bend of this type can be fitted to a component at one end and the other end can then be manipulated easily to point in the desired direction. Because no rotation of the bend is required, one end of the bend can be integrally moulded with or factory fitted onto another component such as an access gully. This means that there is less likelihood of damage or error during installation.

In a preferred embodiment each coupling between consecutive rings is axially slidable to the extent that the respective axes of the rings can be inclined through an angle of 5° with one another.

During construction of drainage networks, problems are frequently experienced when it is necessary to connect different types of components, such as clay components with plastics components, for example. Such problems are often caused by disparity in diameters or physical characteristics.

A third aspect of the invention sets out to provide a means for facilitating connection between clay and plastics components. Furthermore, this aspect of the invention also sets out to provide means for coupling components having different diameters or other characteristics.

According to the third aspect of the invention there is provided an adapter for connecting a first pipe having a first external diameter and a second pipe having a second, narrower external diameter, the adapter comprising:

an adapter ring having an external diameter not greater than the internal diameter of the first pipe and internal diameter not less than the external diameter of the second pipe, the adapter ring comprising an internal annular seal projecting inwardly from an inner surface thereof,

the arrangement being such that during use, in no particular order, the adapter ring can be fitted over an end of the second pipe and the adapter ring can be inserted into the mouth of the first pipe, so that an internal seal of the adapter ring abuts the external surface of the second pipe.

In a preferred embodiment, the adapter ring comprises an inwardly projecting flange which acts as a seat to locate the adapter ring in position upon the end of the second pipe. The adapter ring may also be provided with a tapered portion which tapers radially outwardly from an end of the adapter ring for location at the end of the second pipe in use to the full diameter of the adapter ring. This provides an inclined surface which facilitates insertion of the adapter ring into the first pipe. Preferably, the adapter ring is used in combination with a coupling ring for fixation to the first pipe, the coupling ring being adapted to internally receive the adapter ring and comprising an inwardly projecting annular seal.

According to a fourth aspect of the invention there is provided a clay pipe with a plastics socket fitted to an end thereof, the plastics socket being provided with an internal formation which permanently deforms when the socket is placed over the end of a pipe, to securely retain the socket in position upon an end region of the pipe. The socket can be installed upon the pipe during manufacture and the resulting pipe, or

component of which the pipe may form a part, then essentially includes the socket as an integral part thereof. Preferably, the formation is a sacrificial rib.

Embodiments of the invention will now be described, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:-

Figure 1 is a perspective view of an access gully in accordance with the invention;

Figure 2 is a cross-section through the access gully of figure 1 with a riser and a waste adapter installed;

Figure 3 is a vertical cross section through an alternative form of access gully;

Figure 4 is a plan view of the gully shown in figure 3;

Figure 5 is a side view of an adjustable bend in accordance with the invention;

Figure 6 is a cross-section through the adjustable bend of figure 5;

Figure 7 is a schematic view of a conventional adjustable bend;

Figure 8 is a cross-sectional view of the access gully of figure 2 with an adjustable bend similar to the one shown in figures 5 and 6 fitted at its outlet;

Figure 9 is a pipe adapter in accordance with the invention;

Figure 10 is a perspective view of an oblique junction fitted with sockets in accordance with the invention;

Figure 11 is a cross-sectional view through one of the sockets shown in figure 10; and

Figures 12 and 13 are radial cross sections through a socket which is a modification of that shown in figure 11.

The access gully 100 which is shown in figures 1 and 2 comprises a plastics lower housing 102 and clay ware upper housing 104. The lower housing 102 may be formed using an injection moulding process and the upper housing 104 may be formed using a slip casting process. Alternatively both housings may be of plastics or of slip-casting clay.

The lower housing 102 is generally cylindrical and is closed at the bottom and open at the top, as is normal. An outlet pipe 106 feeds from the side of the lower housing 102. A factory-fitted coupling 108 is provided on the outlet pipe 106. A dip-tube trap 110 is provided coaxially within the lower housing 102. The dip-tube trap can be lifted upwards to remove it from the lower housing 102. The upper housing 104 is rectangular in plan and fitted to the upper, open end of the lower housing 102. The junction between the two housings is formed by a depending cylindrical portion 112 of the upper housing 104 which fits concentrically within the open upper end of the lower housing 102. An annular seal 114 is provided between the radially outer surface of the depending portion 112 of the upper housing 104 and the radially inner surface of the lower housing 102.

Because both the lower housing 102 and the depending portion 112 of the upper housing 104 are circular in cross-section, the depending portion 112 may be freely rotated within its seat in the lower portion 102. This enables the upper housing 104 to be rotated in the horizontal plane with respect to the lower housing 102.

The upper housing 104 is open at the top and comprises a grid 116 situated in a seat 118 which extends completely around the perimeter of the open top of the upper housing 104. The grid 116 fits into the seat 118 directly above the dip-tube trap 110. A waste/rainwater connection 120 fits into the top of a region 122 of the upper housing 104 which is offset from above the lower housing 102. The waste/rainwater connection 120 is also supported by the seat 118.

Because the top housing portion 104 is offset, this allows the upper housing portion 104 to be butted to the side of the building whilst the grid 116 is located above the dip-tube trap 110. This ensures that the dip-tube trap 110 will be easily removable once the grid 116 has been removed. As a result cleaning and rodding are greatly facilitated.

Figure 2 shows a variation in which, a riser 124 is installed between the lower housing 102 and the upper housing 104. The riser allows side access by an additional inlet 126. The side inlet 16 is fitted with an integrated side inlet spout 128. The side inlet spout 128 is formed in a cover 130 which is rotatably fitted over the inlet 126. Due to the rotatable nature of the cover 130, the position of the inlet spout 128 in the circumferential direction of the inlet 126 can be adjusted by rotating the cover 130. This has the effect of moving the vertical position of the inlet spout 128.

Figures 3 and 4 show another form of the access gully. This comprises a clayware (or plastics) pot 702 with an upper bell end 704 in which is seated a trap carrier 706 made of plastics for example polypropylene. The trap carrier has an external sealing ring 708 seated in the bell end, and a lower internal sealing ring 710 in its open lower end.

A polypropylene or other plastics trap 712 is seated and sealed in the open lower end of the trap carrier and projects downwardly into the gully pot 702. The trap comprises a substantially cylindrical sleeve, with internal handles flange 714 on the interior of its cylindrical wall substantially mid way along its height for use in removing and replacing the trap.

The upper side of the trap carrier is also open, and of larger diameter than the opening which receives the trap. It is provided with an internal sealing ring 716 secured for example by a snap-fastening cap ring 718. An access gully top 720 of slip-cast clayware or of plastics is seated in the trap carrier and sealed by the ring 716. As in the case of figures 1 and 2, this gully top is asymmetrical relative to the vertical centre line of the pot and trap, with an offset region 722.

A plastics or metal grid 714 is seated in the gully top directly above the trap. A plastics or metal waste/rainwater connection 726 is also seated in the gully top, alongside the grid 724.

The effects and advantages of the described arrangement are substantially as set forth with reference to figure 1 and 2.

The inlet component 726 provides two different pipe access positions. At each of these is a closure 728 consisting of stepped regions of progressively decreasing diameter. One or more of these regions can be cut or broken away by the user, to provide a circular opening to accommodate waste pipes of various different standard sizes, or a circular or square opening to accommodate rainwater pipes.

The grid and pipe access components are separate, so that the grid can be removed to give access to the trap and to enable the trap to be removed, without disturbing the pipe access component 726 and the pipe or pipes connected to it.

On one side of the gully pot, a back inlet socket 732 is provided, which has an internal seal ring 734 for receiving and sealing a pipe. When no connection is to be made to the back inlet socket it is closed by a stopper 736. The back inlet socket is seated and sealed in an opening provided in the wall of the pot, and retained by a locking plate 730.

Figure 3 also shows another opening in the pot wall, in which is seated and sealed an adjustable bend 740 of plastics material for connection to a discharge pipe. This adjustable bend will be further described below with reference to figures 5 and 6. It is retained by a locking plate 730.

Figures 5 and 6 show an adjustable bend in accordance with a second aspect of the invention.

The adjustable bend 300 shown in figures 5 and 6 is formed from a series of slidably interengaged 302, 304 and 306 of circular cross section. The rings can be divided into three types: body segments 302, male end segment 304 and female end segment 306.

The body segments 302 form the majority of the length of the bend 300. Each comprises a radially narrower portion 308, and an axially adjacent, coaxial, radially wider portion 310. The radially narrower portion 308 of one segment is inserted into the radially wider portion 310 of a subsequent segment 302. An annular seal 312 is provided on a radially outer surface of each radially narrower portion 308 and forms a seal between the radially outer surface of the radially narrower portion 308 of one segment and the radially inner surface of a radially wider portion 310 of the subsequent segment 302. Each segment has an inner annular flange 330 spaced radially within the portion 310. The end of the portion 308 of a segment, with its seal 312, is received between the flange 330 and the outer portion 310 of the adjacent segment.

Each radially narrower portion 308 is slidably received within the radially greater portion 310 of an adjacent body segment 302. This allows two connected body segments 302 to move relative to one another in the axial direction, the circumferential direction and - by flexing of the seals 312 in combination with axial sliding - in the radial direction. In the embodiment shown, consecutive segments can provide a relative axial inclination of 5° . The overall axial inclination which can be obtained (i.e. the maximum bend angle) is approximately 30° .

Movement in the axial direction is limited by a radially inwardly directed annular lip 314 provided at the axially outer perimeter of the radially greater portion 310 of each body segment 302 and a radially outwardly directed first flange 316 provided on each radially narrow portion of each body segment 302. The abutment of opposing lips 314 and flanges 316 restricts axial separation of consecutive body segments 302 because in

a connected pair of body segments 302, the flange 316 of one will be situated axially inwards of the lip 314 of the segment 302 into which it is inserted.

Each radially inner portion also comprises a radially outwardly directed second flange 318 which abuts against a step 320 provided at an axially inner end of the radially greater portion of a subsequent body segment 302, into which the segment 302 is inserted. This limits axial insertion of one body segment 302 into another.

Each radially greater portion of each body segment 302 further comprises a radially outwardly directed flange 322 which abuts against the axially outer end of a radially greater portion 310 of a subsequent body segment 302 inserted into the body segment 302. This restricts axial insertion of the body segment carrying the radially outwardly directed flange 322 into the other. Flange 322 may extend outwards beyond portion 310 to form a reinforcing rib.

The axially outer end of each radially greater portion 310 is inclined radially inwardly to present a sloping surface 315 to assist in feeding the radially smaller portion 308 of a body segment 302 to be inserted into the body segment 302 inwardly. Insertion may also be assisted by an inclined surface provided on the second flange 318 of each radially smaller portion 308 which otherwise presents the first obstacle to the insertion of one body segment 302 into another.

Each seal 312 is situated between the two radially outwardly directed flanges 318 and 316 provided on a respective radially narrower portion.

The male end segment 304 comprises a body portion having the same radially outer diameter as the basic radially outer diameter of the radially greater portions of the body segments 302. Its inner configuration at its inner end is identical to that of the inner configuration of each of the radially smaller portions 308 of the body segments 302.

The male end portion 304 differs from the body segments 302 in that it comprises a cylindrical outer surface which is free of interruption and therefore suitable for insertion into a socket. The male end segment 304 comprises an outwardly directed flange 352 which limits its axial movement against the body segment 302 onto which it is fitted.

The female end segment 306 comprises a radially larger region 360 which has an outer configuration identical to that of the larger portions 310 of the body segments 302. This connector differs from each of the body segments 302 in that, rather than a radially smaller portion 308, it comprises a socket of a type suitable for connection with a spigot or a pipe end, provided with an internal seal ring 332.

Each of the end segments may be integrally formed with some other component.

Alternatively, a component may be provided with a cylindrical portion having an inner configuration identical to that of a radially greater portion of one of the body segments 302. This would enable it to receive a radially narrower portion 308 of a body segment therein. Alternatively or additionally, the component may be provided with a cylindrical portion which has a radially outer configuration similar to that of the radially narrower portion 308 of each of the body segments 302. This would enable a body portion 302 to be fitted over this portion of the component.

Figure 8 shows an access gully similar to the one shown in figure 2. The access gully shown in this figure has the male end portion of an adjustable bend fitted to the outlet by a pipe coupling 340. This can be done in the factory, e.g. as described below with reference to Figures 10 to 13 and the engagement can be made effectively permanent. With the bend fixed in position in this manner, the gully is very versatile and is less susceptible to poor installation quality, because there is no reason for the labourer to interfere with the connection between the gully and bend.

Figure 9 shows an assembly comprising an adapter ring in accordance with the third aspect of the invention.

The adapter ring 504 allows pipes or components having different external diameters to be connected together.

Figure 9 shows a coupling ring 502 which is essentially a socket which may be pushed onto the end of a pipe, may be factory-fitted or may be welded or integrally formed in some other way with a pipe or with a pipe fitting or other component. If the coupling ring 502 is to be fitted to a clay pipe, it has been found that shrinking the coupling ring 502 tightly onto the clay pipe in the factory provides a particularly useful socket.

The coupling ring 502 includes a radially inwardly directed annular seal 506. The seal is held in position just inside the mouth of the coupling ring 502 by an annular clip 508 which fits over the mouth of the coupling ring 502 and traps a portion of the annular seal 506 against radially inner side of the coupling ring 502 to hold it in position.

The adapter ring 504 has a smaller diameter than the coupling ring 502. The outer diameter of the adapter ring 504 fits inside the coupling ring 502 with a small radial clearance all round. The clearance is sealed by the annular seal 506. The axial end of the adapter ring 504 which for insertion into the coupling ring 502 is tapered radially inwardly. This facilitates insertion of the adapter ring 504 into the coupling ring 502.

The adapter ring 504 also comprises an annular, inwardly directed flange 510. This flange 510 extends radially inwardly to define an aperture 512. The diameter of the aperture corresponds exactly with the internal diameter of the pipe 514 which is inserted into the adapter ring 504. The adapter ring 504 also comprises a radially inwardly directed annular seal 516 which is similar to the seal 506 provided in the

coupling ring 502. The annular seal 516 provided in the adapter ring is also held in place by a clip 518 which is similar to the clip 508 which holds the seal 506 in place.

Axially inwardly of the seal 516 and clip 518, the adapter ring 504 also comprises an outer annular rib 520 directly adjacent the position at which the clip 518 is fitted. This rib 520 has a sloping surface 522 extending radially inwardly from the clip position.

Figures 10 and 11 illustrate a fourth aspect of the invention. They show an oblique junction 600 which is made from fired clay fitted with a plastics coupling assembly at the end of each pipe length.

Each coupling is factory-fitted and comprises a central cylindrical portion 604 comprising a radially inwardly directed flange 606 which locates against the end of the pipe to assist in locating the coupling on the pipe end correctly. The cylindrical section comprises a series of radially inwardly directed sacrificial ribs 608 which deform when the ring is inserted onto the pipe end to provide a firm and permanent engagement between the coupling and the pipe end. During manufacture, each coupling is hammered or forced on to the fitting and is therefore held in position very strongly.

The couplings shown in figure 11 each comprise a radially inwardly directed annular seal 610 at each mouth of the central cylindrical portion 604. Each annular seal 610 is held in position by an annular end cap 612 which is snapped over the respective mouth of the coupling.

The plastics coupling assembly can then be connected with a spigot end of a pipe or other component.

Figures 12 and 13 illustrate couplings for factory fitting, generally similar to that of figure 11 but modified by the addition of annular external ribs 614, 616, 618 to provide

additional strength. A sacrificial rib 608 is visible in figure 19. Any desired number of these ribs can be provided, spaced around the circumference of the coupling. Typically six or eight such ribs are provided. Figure 12 shows the cross section of the coupling at a position between two of the ribs, where the internal diameter is not less than the external diameter of a pipe; the internal diameter is desirably somewhat greater than the pipe diameter, to provide space to accommodate material displaced from the sacrificial ribs.

CLAIMS:

1. An access gully comprising a lower housing with an outlet and a dip-tube trap and an upper housing connected to the lower housing and comprising an inlet grid and an inlet pipe access in an upper region thereof, wherein the grid is situated above the dip-tube trap and can be removed to allow removal of the dip-tube trap, and the inlet pipe access is disposed to one side of the grid, the positions of the grid and inlet pipe access being dictated by the configuration of the upper housing which has an off-set portion for accommodating the inlet pipe.
2. An access gully as claimed in claim 1 in which the upper housing is rotatable in the horizontal plane with respect to the lower housing.
3. An access gully as claimed in claim 2 in which the axis of rotation of the upper housing with respect to the lower housing is generally coaxial with the vertical central axis of the dip-tube trap when installed.
40. An adjustable bend comprising a series of inter-engaging rings, each ring having a first end portion of a relatively lesser diameter and a second end portion of a relatively greater diameter, the rings being arranged such that, from ring to ring, the first end portion of one ring is slideably received within the second end portion of a successive ring, in such a manner as to allow the successive rings to deviate from a coaxial alignment by asymmetric sliding of the first end portion of one ring within the second end portion of the other ring.
5. An adjustable bend as claimed in claim 4 in which each coupling between consecutive rings is axially slidable to the extent that the respective axes of the rings can be inclined through an angle of 5° with one another.

6. An adapter for connecting a first pipe having a first external diameter and a second pipe having a second, narrower external diameter, the adapter comprising:
an adapter ring having an external diameter not greater than the internal diameter of the first pipe and internal diameter not less than the external diameter of the second pipe, the adapter ring comprising an internal annular seal projecting inwardly from an inner surface thereof,
the arrangement being such that during use, in no particular order, the adapter ring can be fitted over an end of the second pipe and the adapter ring can be inserted into the mouth of the first pipe, so that an internal seal of the adapter ring abuts the external surface of the second pipe.
7. An adapter as claimed in claim 6 in which the adapter ring comprises an inwardly projecting flange which acts as a seat to locate the adapter ring in position upon the end of the second pipe and/or with a tapered portion which tapers radially outwardly from an end of the adapter ring for location at the end of the second pipe in use to the full diameter of the adapter ring.
8. An adapter as claimed in claim 6 or 7 in combination with a coupling ring for fixation to the first pipe, the coupling ring being adapted to internally receive the adapter ring and comprising an inwardly projecting annular seal.
9. A clay pipe with a plastics socket fitted to an end thereof, the plastics socket being provided with an internal formation which permanently deforms when the socket is placed over the end of a pipe, to securely retain the socket in position upon an end region of the pipe.
10. The combination claimed in claim 9 in which the formation is a sacrificial rib.

11. An access gully substantially as herein described with reference to figures 1 and 2 or figures 3 and 4 of the accompanying drawings.
12. An adjustable bend substantially as herein described with reference to figures 5 and 6 of the accompanying drawings.
13. An adapter substantially as herein described with reference to figure 9 of the accompanying drawings.
14. A pipe end coupling substantially as herein described with reference to figure 11 or figures 12 and 13 of the accompanying drawings.

1 / 7

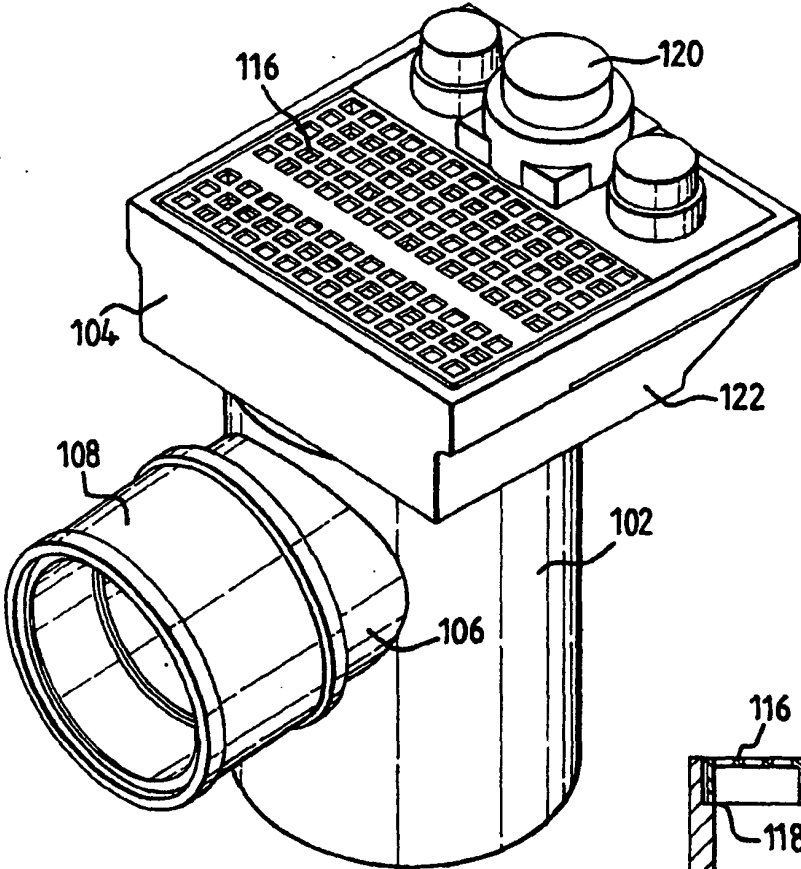


FIG. 1

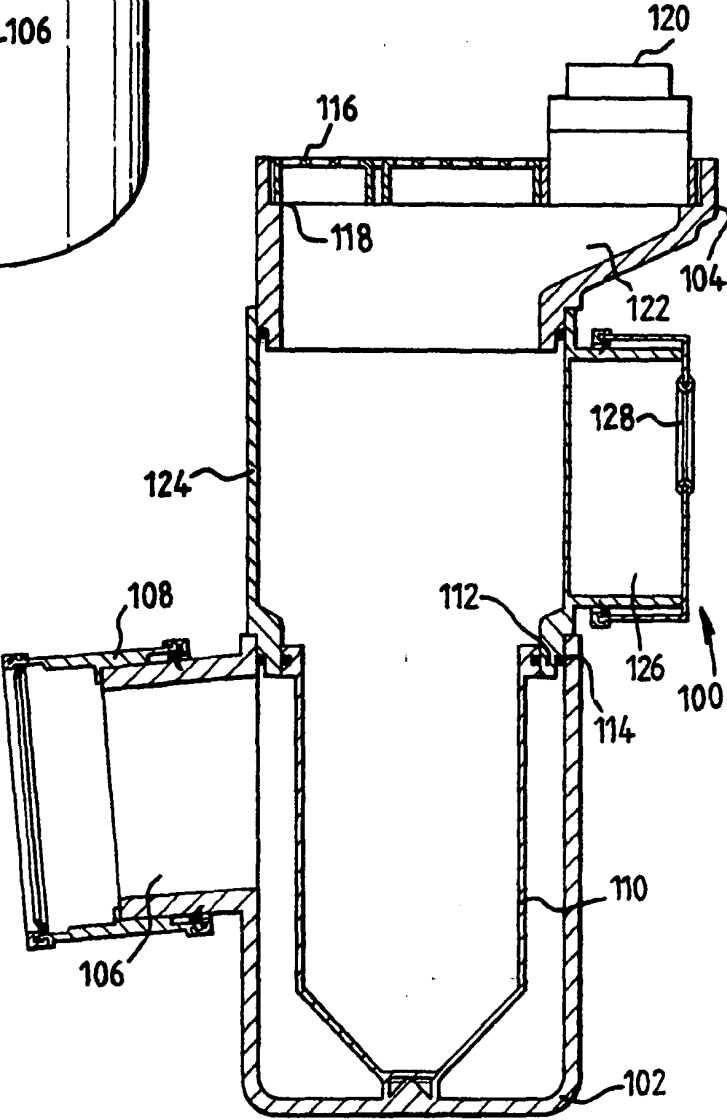


FIG. 2

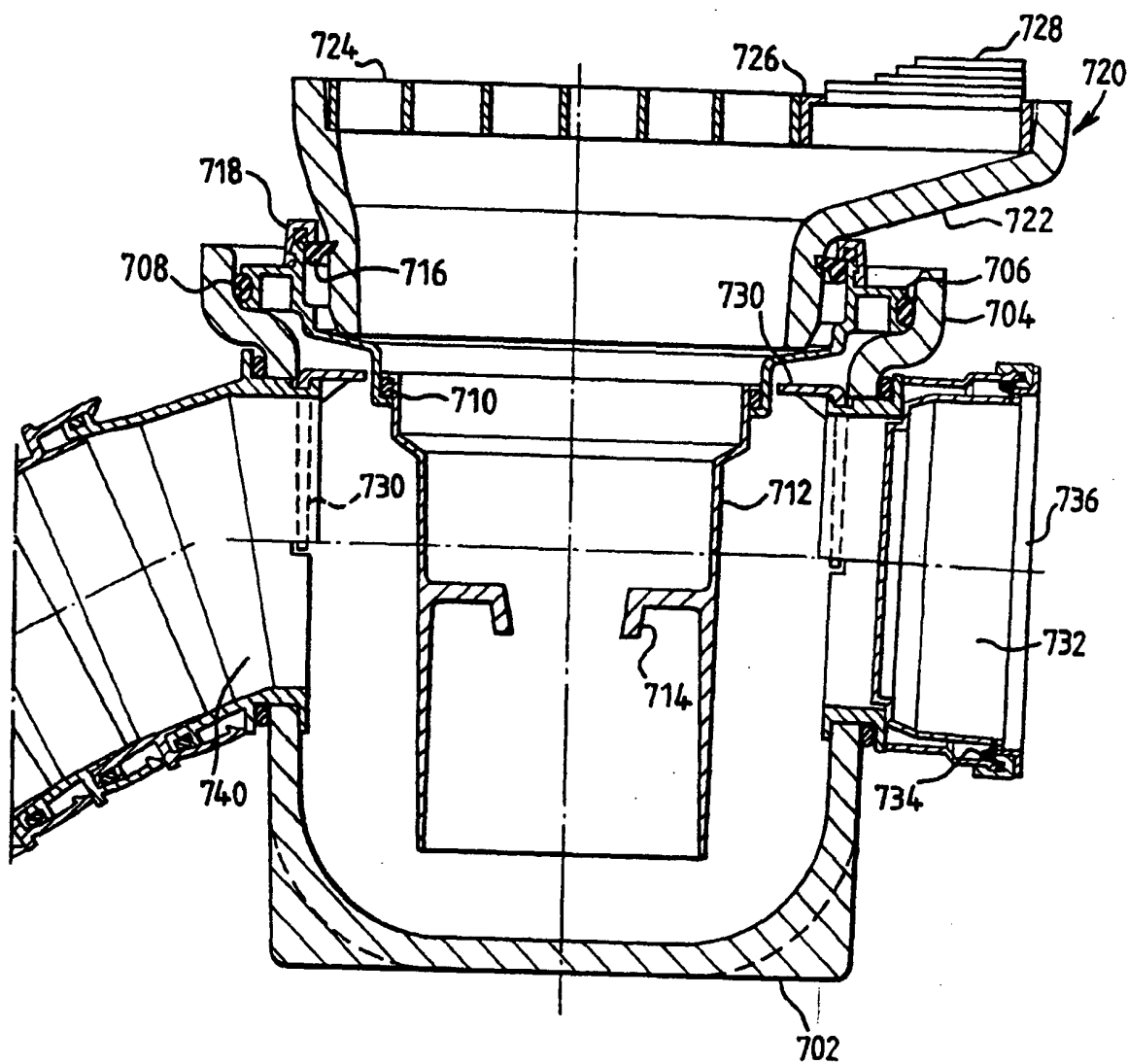


FIG. 3

3/7

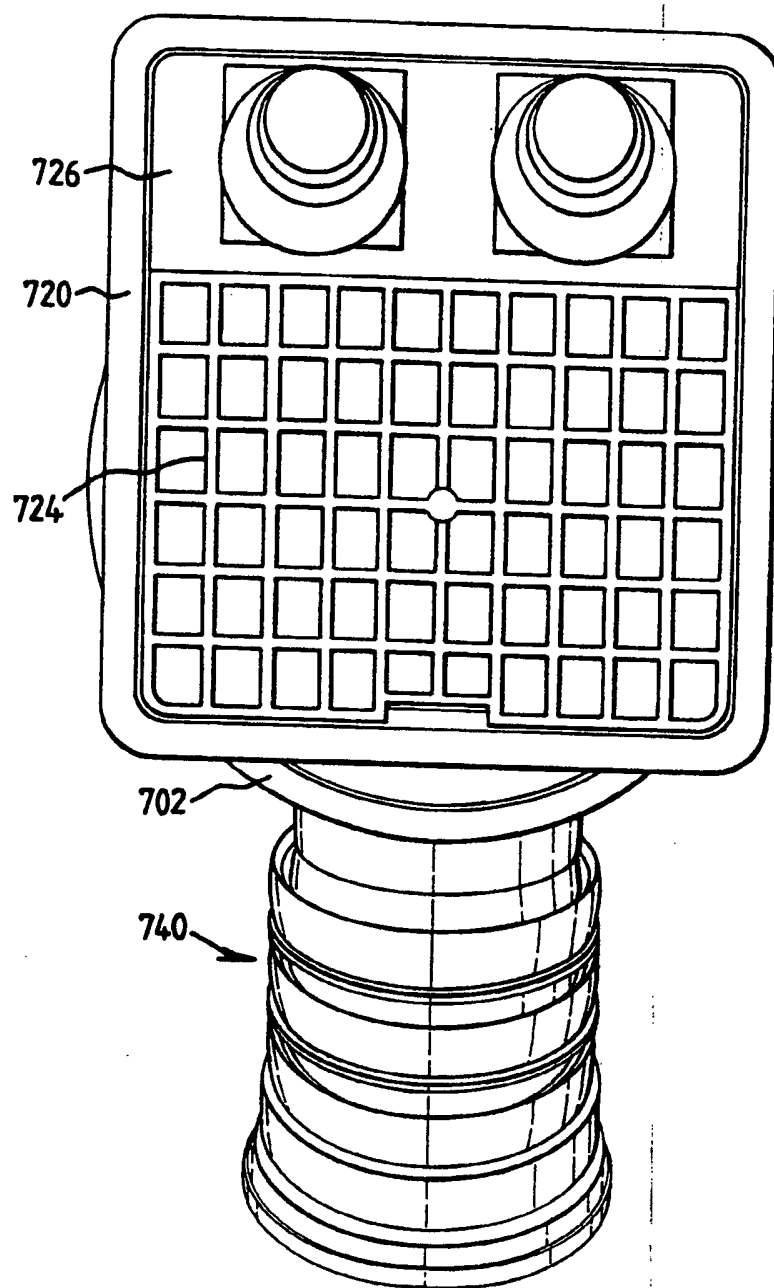


FIG. 4

4/7

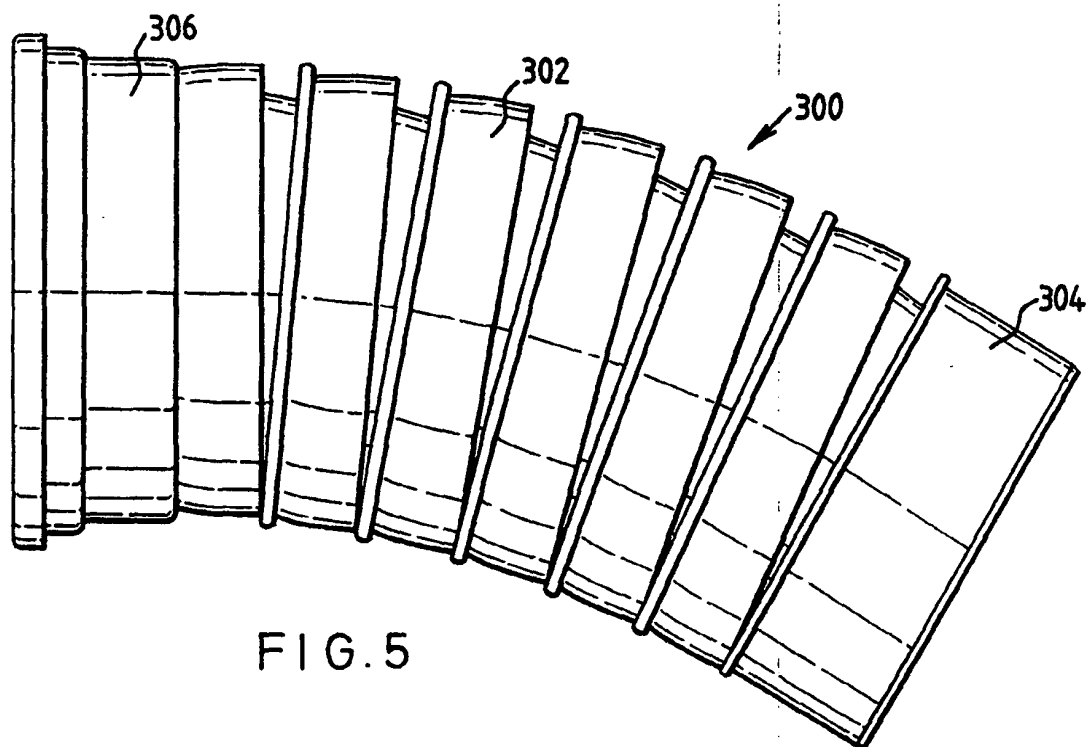


FIG. 5

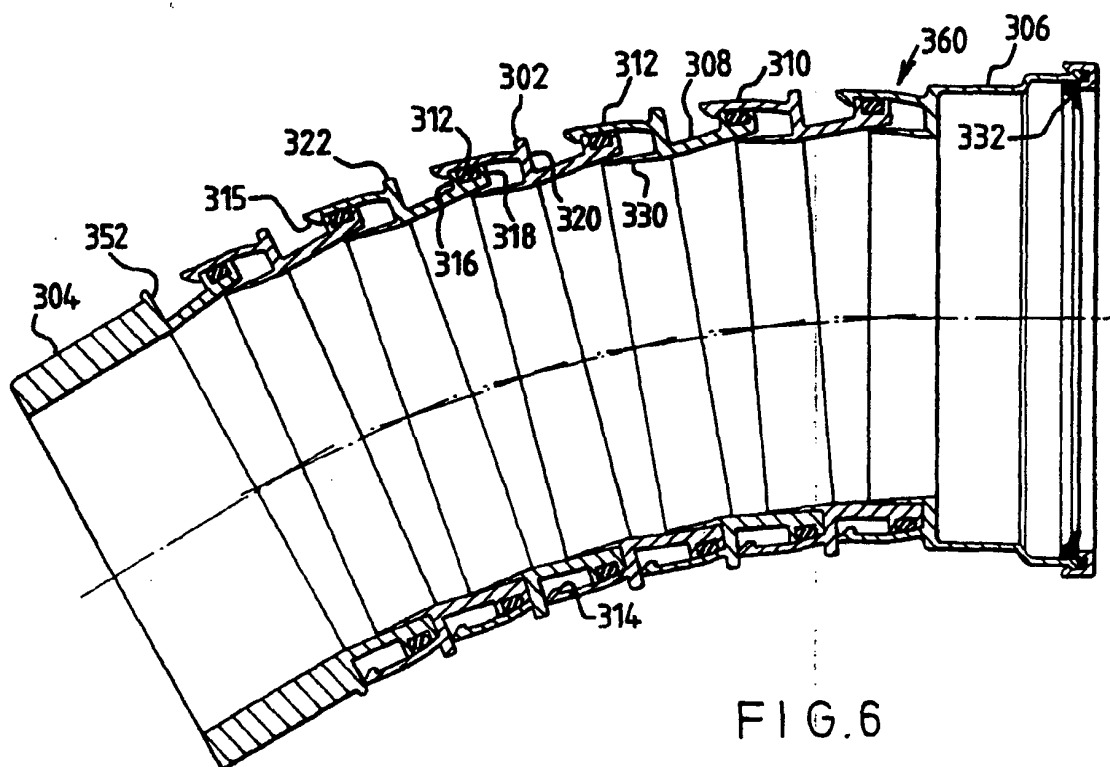


FIG. 6

5/7

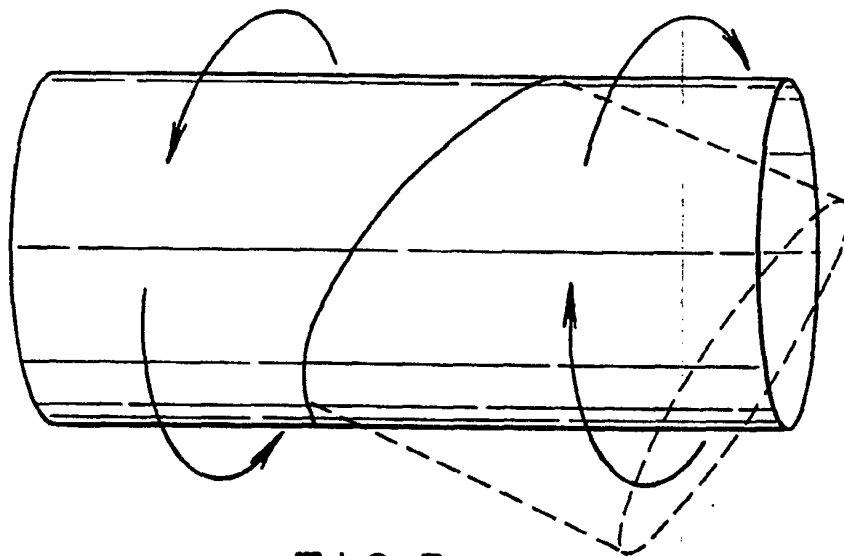


FIG. 7

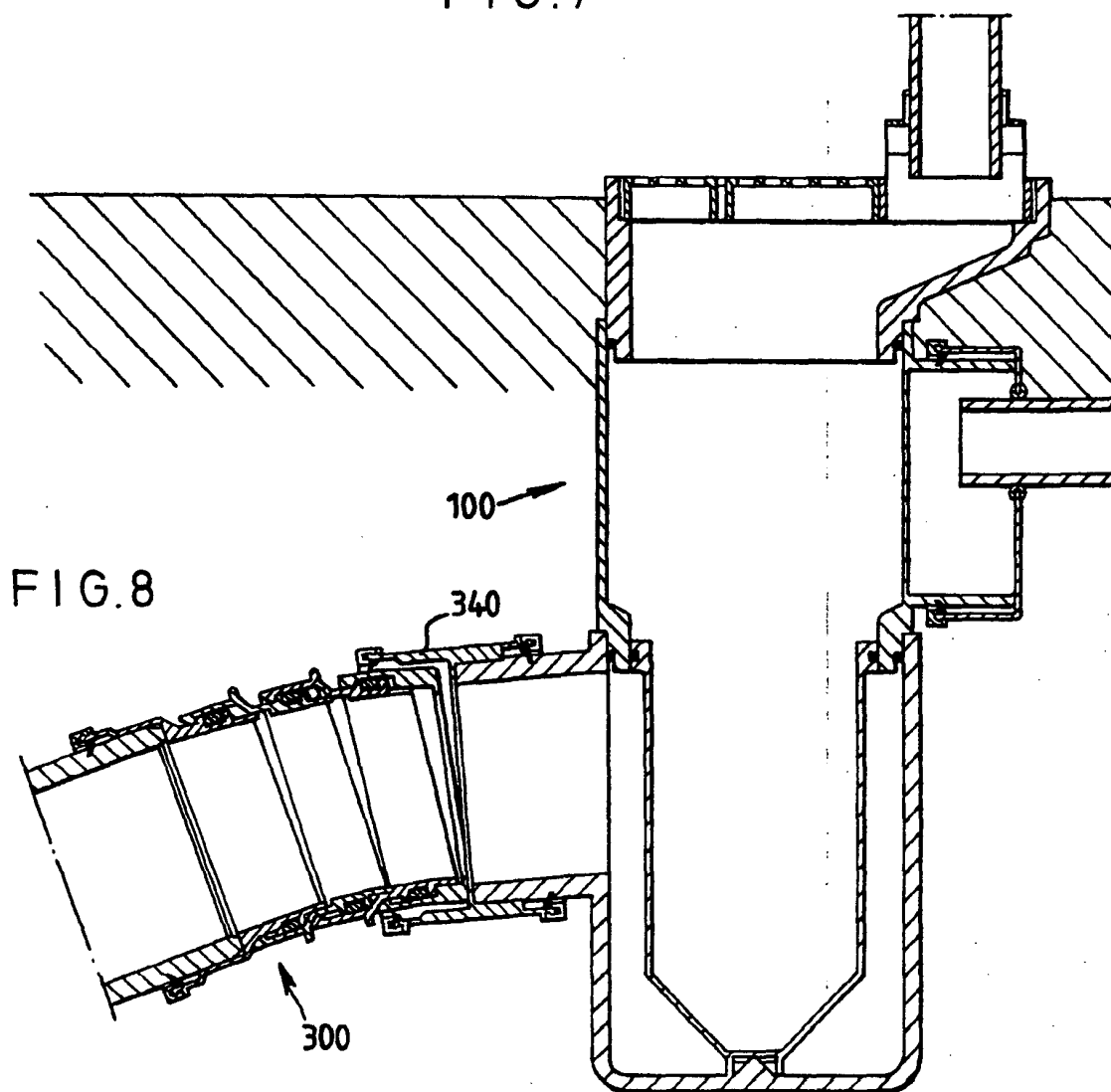


FIG. 8

6/7

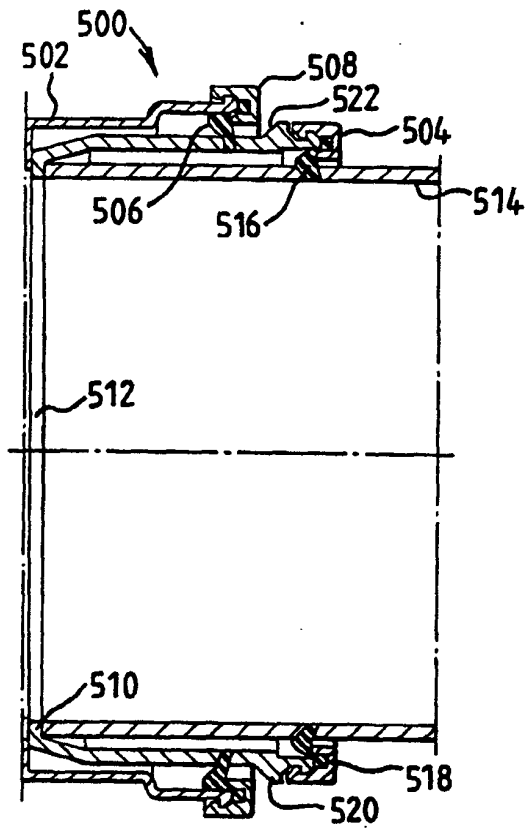


FIG. 9

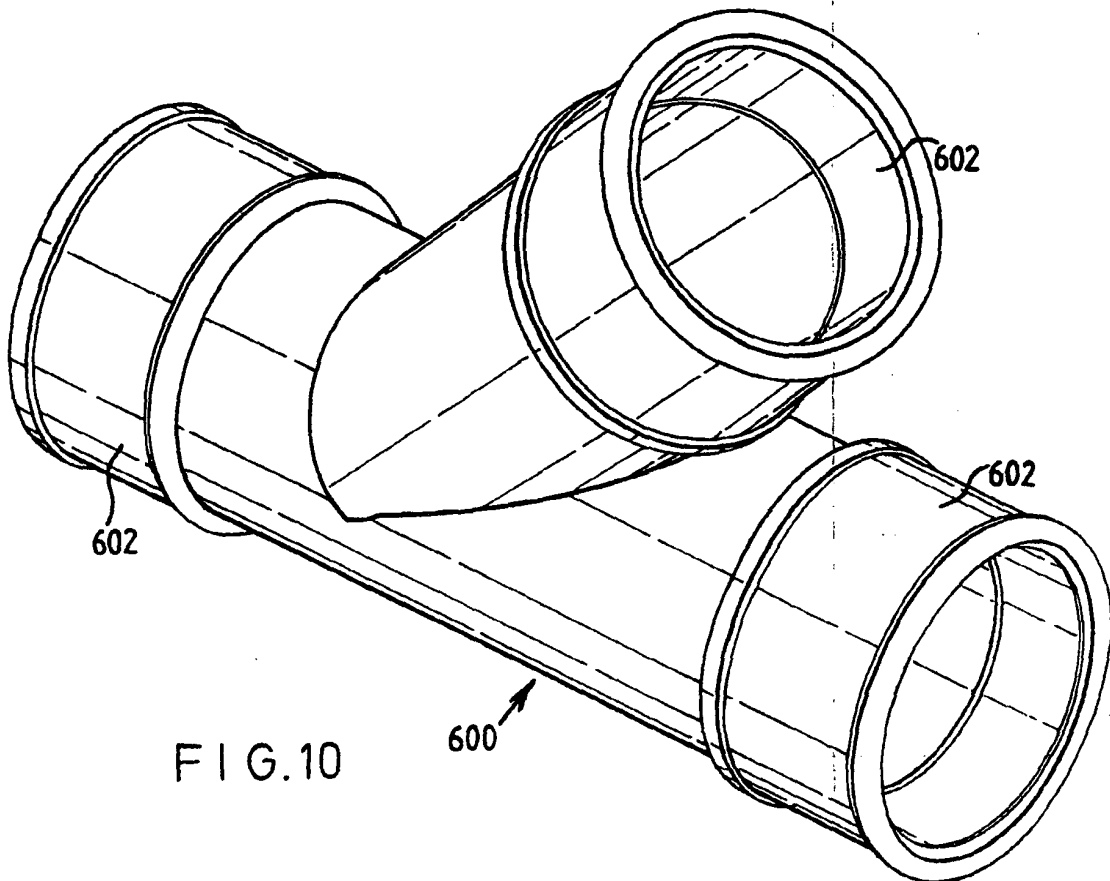


FIG. 10

7/7

